

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 14 and 22 have been amended. Claims 2, 20 and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-19 and 22-24 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 9, 11-20 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirano et al. (US 6,522,555) (hereinafter “Hirano”).

Hirano discloses a thermally conductive board, method of manufacturing the same, and power module with the same incorporated therein. Hirano includes a lead frame 11 as a wiring pattern, an insulating layer 12 formed of a mixture of 70 to 95 wt. % inorganic filler and 5 to 30 wt. % resin composition containing at least thermosetting resin, an electrically conductive heat sink 13, a metal pole 14, and a grounding pattern 15. The grounding pattern 15 and the heat sink 13 are connected inside the insulating layer 12 through the metal pole 14. Parts of the lead frame 11 as the wiring pattern are bent to be orthogonal to the board to form external terminals. An active device 23 and a passive device 24 are mounted on the wiring pattern 11 of this board, and a control circuit board 27 placed above is connected to the lead frame 11 as the wiring pattern and as the external terminals. The control circuit board 27 includes circuit components 26 mounted on a prepared circuit board 25. The circuit portion is sealed with resin and further steps of attaching a case and the like are carried out as required, and thus, a power module is completed. Hirano, 15:8-15:25 and Figure 12.

Claims 1, 9 and 11-13

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claims 9 and 11-13 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for the at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 14-20

Claim 14 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 21 and intervening dependent claim 20. Claims 15-19 are dependent on claim 14 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason. Claim 20 has been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 22-24

Amended claim 22 recites: "...wherein the electric conductor member comprises a thin film layer." Support for this amendment may be found in at least paragraph [0024] of the specification. In contrast to amended claim 22, Hirano discloses a metal pole 14 rather than a thin film layer as the electrical conductor member.

Claims 23 and 24 are dependent on claim 22 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that Claims 2-8, 10 and 21 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Regarding claims 2 and 21, the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 21 has been incorporated into their respective base claims. Claims 2 and 21 have been cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended to alter its dependency from cancelled claim 2 to claim 1. Claims 4-8 and 10 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore believed to allowable in their present form.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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